

FROM LITTLE THINGS...  
BIG THINGS GROW.



St Aidan's Uniting Church  
30<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## Call to Worship

From little things, big things grow:  
From a glimmer of interest, into faith;  
From an experience of care, into sharing love;  
What grows from an experience of worship?  
Hope? Love? Compassion?  
Let us be open to what new thing grows  
and let us worship God.

## Prayers

God of the cosmos,  
you are the one who embraces all creation,  
and yet are more intimate than our own breath.

Forgive us the times we expect to see  
the seed of your Kingdom,  
and so do not recognise its growth  
when it happens.

Forgive us that we often underestimate  
the growth that can and does occur  
and so limit what we put in  
or how many people we think will  
eat at your table.

Forgive us that we encounter your kingdom –  
whether it is by accident  
or after diligent searching –  
and it does not look like our expectations  
and so we pass it by.

Help us to recognise your work in this world,  
in whatever form it takes;  
help us to be part of your kingdom  
so that all people may know your hope.  
Amen.

## Words of Assurance

Our God, who is vaster than the cosmos,  
yet more intimate than our breath,  
loves and cares for us.

Have faith:  
have hope;  
for you are the beloved child of God.

You are loved and forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer of Intercession

Loving God,  
we look at our world  
and see so many needs –  
it feels overwhelming and we ask,  
what difference can our small efforts make?

We see the heatwaves and bushfires  
that have spread across Europe,  
with new records being broken  
almost every day;  
the winter ice in Antarctica  
is at its lowest;  
and some are reminded of the trauma  
of our own bushfires  
just a few short years ago.

We hear of the wars around the world,  
especially in Ukraine  
where the threat of nuclear weapons  
or the bombing of nuclear power plants  
is a constant.

Our young people look at the state of their world  
and wonder if they have a future;  
anxiety and depression is an understandable response

to this world in which we live.

Bless and support all  
who plant mustard seeds of hope,  
showing a different way of being  
so that your beautiful world has a future.

Encourage those who have given up  
whose anxiety paralyses them,  
or whose depression tells them there is no point.

Change the hearts of those  
who through ignorance, laziness, or greed,  
want to keep things as they always have been.

Teach us to plant your mustard seeds,  
to add the leaven,  
and to recognise, when we see them,  
the signs of your kingdom.

Amen.

### Benediction & Blessing

So go out and plant mustard seeds of hope,  
mix a little leaven of compassion  
without worrying about how many can be fed,  
and be ready to recognise God's reign  
wherever it is visible.